

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING AT HOME

Fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns and gardens are major sources of pollution in lakes and rivers. To help protect Florida's environment, the following Florida-friendly landscaping tips are recommended:

1. Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Water running off your yard can carry pollutants, such as fertilizer, pesticides, grass clippings, pet waste, soil and debris that can harm water quality. Reduction of this runoff will help prevent pollution.

2. Recycle

Grass clippings, leaves and yard trimmings composted and recycled on site provide nutrients to the soil and reduce waste disposal.

3. Fertilize Appropriately

Less is often best. Over-use of fertilizers can be hazardous to your yard and the environment.

4. Water Efficiently

Irrigate only when your lawn needs water. Efficient watering is the key to a healthy yard and conservation of limited resources.

5. Mulch

Maintain two to three inches of mulch to help retain soil moisture, prevent erosion and suppress weeds.

6. Right Plant, Right Place

Plants selected to suit a specific site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizers and pesticides. Select plants for wildlife that provide food, water and shelter to help conserve Florida's diverse ecosystem. More information: www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/yards

7. Protect the Waterfront

Waterfront property, whether on a river, stream or lake, is very fragile and should be carefully protected to maintain aquatic ecosystems.

8. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial organisms and the environment.



Did you know that grass clippings are rich in nutrients, which can harm water quality and the wildlife that call our lakes home? Everything that goes into storm drains and groundwater goes untreated, straight into lakes, rivers and streams. To help protect Lake County's waterways, remember to never let grass clippings, pet waste, soaps or chemicals run into storm drains.

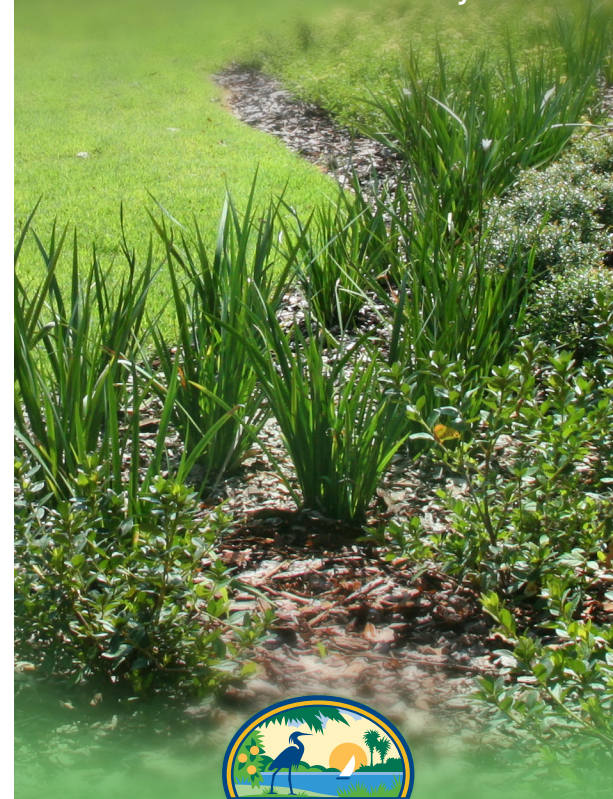
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UF/IFAS photos by Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program staff, state extension faculty and specialists, and Master Gardeners.



For more information on safe and effective fertilizing in your lawn and garden, contact the UF/IFAS Extension in Lake County at 352-343-4101 or visit <http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Your GUIDE to EFFECTIVE FERTILIZING in Lake County



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

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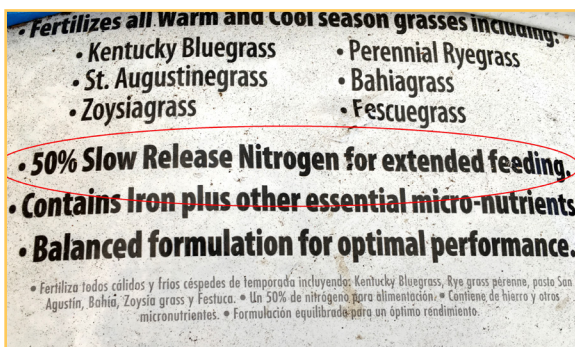
LAKE COUNTY'S FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

The Lake County Board of County Commissioners approved an ordinance in 2017 for unincorporated residents to comply with the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act. The Act requires all jurisdictions within a Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) area to enact an ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes or an equivalent.

Because Lake County is included within the Wekiva BMAP and the Silver Springs BMAP, the Keep Lake Beautiful Committee recommended adopting an enhanced ordinance, which was approved by the County Commission in November 2017. The enforcement of the ordinance, including penalties or fines, will begin one year from its effective date.

FERTILIZER ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Prohibits the application of fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorous to turf between June 1 and Sept. 30.
2. Prohibits application of fertilizer within 15 feet of water bodies and recommends a voluntarily 15-foot low maintenance zone from any water body.
3. Restricts application of fertilizer containing nitrogen to turf or landscaping plants during the period of Oct. 1 through May 31 to contain no less than 50 percent slow release nitrogen content.
4. Requires the clean up of fertilizer from paved surfaces like sidewalks and driveways.



AROUND THE STATE

- 34 Florida counties have adopted a fertilizer ordinance, including the neighboring counties of Marion, Orange, Volusia and Seminole
- 44 percent of counties with a fertilizer ordinance have a slow release requirement

GO GREEN, KNOW GREEN

The Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMPs) are a science-based educational program for Green Industry workers, provided by UF/IFAS' Florida-Friendly Landscaping program. The classes teach environmentally safe landscaping practices that help conserve and protect Florida's ground and surface waters. They can also save Florida homeowners money, time, and effort; increase the beauty of the home landscape; and protect the health of families, pets, and the environment.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Supervisors and employees in the lawn care, pest control, or landscape industry
- Municipal parks and recreation facility supervisors and employees
- Irrigation industry workers
- Commercial property managers
- City and county planning department staff
- City and county environmental department or water quality staff
- City and county commission staff
- Builders and developers
- Landscape designers and architects
- Golf course employees
- Anyone working in the areas of water quality, urban development, or environmental issues

For additional information regarding GI-BMPs or the Florida-Friendly Yards Program contact the UF/IFAS Extension in Lake County at 352-343-4101 or visit <http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu>.

To read the entire ordinance, visit www.lakecountyfl.gov/fertilizer